

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303792

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 303792

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT:PRESS SUMMARY, DECEMBER 29

1. WSJ (PAGE 1) CARRIES STORY ON SOVIET FISHING FLEET WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS IN MANY WAYS "AS MODERN, POWERFUL, AND FAR-RANGING AS THE SOVIET NAVY ITSELF."
2. NYT (PAGE 1) LESLIE GELB SAYS AMERICANS ARE CONFUSED ABOUT DETENTE WHICH, AS A POLICY, IS NOW SHAKEY WITH ITS BACKERS ON THE DEFENSIVE.
3. NYT (PAGE 2) MALCOLM BROWN WRITES THAT THE EUROPEAN BISON, WILD FOREST HORSE, AND OTHER SPECIES HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM EXTINCTION IN THE VAST PRIMEVAL FOREST STRADDLING THE POLISH-SOVIET FRONTIER.
4. NYT (PAGE 8) ROSS MUNRO, OF TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL, WRITES FROM PEKING THAT DIPLOMATS ARE PUZZLED OVER CHINA'S ABOUT-FACE DECISION TO RELEASE THREE SOVIET AIRMEN WHO HAD BEEN HELD FOR 21 MONTHS ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE AFTER THEY AND THEIR HELICOPTER WERE CAPTURED ON CHINESE TERRITORY.
5. NYT (OP-ED PAGE) WILLIAM SAFIRE CONCLUDES THAT DETENTE

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PAGE 02 STATE 303792

IS DEAD. WHAT CURRENTLY PASSES UNDER THE NAME OF DETENTE,

HE SAYS, IS THE "SOVIET'S OPENING OFFENSIVE IN COLD WAR II."

6. SUN (PAGE 4) CARRIES AP STORY FROM MOSCOW CONCERNING OUSTER OF A RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PRIEST FROM POST AT A COUNTRY CHURCH OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW FOR HIS OUTSPOKEN SERMONS. (ALSO WP)

7. SUN (PAGE 11) GARRY WILLS OPINES THAT ANGOLA COULD BE THE SOVIET UNION'S VIET-NAM "IF WE DO NOT RUSH IN AND GRAB IT AWAY FROM THEM."

8. WP (PAGE 12) THREE-MAN SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW RELEASED BY CHINA WILL ARRIVE IN MOSCOW MONDAY, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES.

9. STAR (PAGE 2) UPI REPORTS FROM LONDON THAT "JANE'S WEAPONS SYSTEMS 1976" SAID OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THE US AND USSR ARE RACING TO DEVELOP A LASER BEAM CAPABLE OF DESTROYING MILITARY TARGETS.

10. STAR EDITORIAL SAYS IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER DETENTE WITH THE SOVIETS IS REALLY IN OUR COMMON INTEREST. IT IS LARGELY A MATTER OF ATMOSPHERICS WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPACT IN THIS COUNTRY, BUT HAS VERY LITTLE INFLUENCE ON SOVIET POLICY, THE PAPER MAINTAINS. ROBINSON

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